

THE KNOXVILLE INDEPENDENT

EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS

OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.

VOL. XXIII No. 26

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1917.

WHOLE NUMBER 1170

DR. CHARLES E. PARSONS



Dr. Charles E. Parsons, one of the leading chemists in the service of the government, has been transferred from the bureau of mines to the war department, where he has become chief chemist. He is most widely known for his work on radium. He has been abroad studying the fixation of nitrogen and is practically in charge of the government's experiments with nitrogen plants.

FRENCH CHEER U. S.

Ambassador Sharp at Meeting of Allied Representatives.

Many Leaders Guests at Dinner Given by the Paris Relief Clearing House.

Paris, April 12.—The entrance of the United States into the war was celebrated by a dinner given by the executive committee of the American relief clearing house, at which representatives of all the allied nations were present. H. Herman Harjes, who presided, alluded to the satisfaction felt by Americans in Paris at the accomplishment of an act they had desired so passionately. The company broke into cheers as he proposed the health of President Poincare.

Minister of Justice Viviani expressed the gratitude of France for the help given by the clearing house in relieving the suffering among the French people. He was followed by United States Ambassador Sharp, who said in part:

"Noble France, uncomplaining of the sacrifices which have so strongly appealed to the heart and conscience of my fellow countrymen, has assuredly pointed the way to victory through the eloquent words of her illustrious son, M. Viviani.

"Little Belgium, whose heroic army fought like the Spartan patriots of old at the Pass of Thermopylae, though able to defend but for a brief time her territory, battled so effectively as perhaps to determine the result of this world-wide war. Belgium, through her eloquent minister of war, M. de Broqueville, pleads tonight for the justice of her cause, and voices her gratitude for the succor extended to her starving people."

M. de Broqueville, in reply, said: "Gentlemen, let us bend very low before the great nation which gives to humanity the most beautiful and proudest spectacle it is possible to conceive. It is she which hastens, by her intervention, the realization of our fondest and most loyal hopes. All honor to the United States of America. Vive President Wilson."

FIGHT TO VICTORY, SAY RUSS

Soldiers of the Petrograd Garrison Adopt Resolution Strongly Supporting the War.

Petrograd, April 12.—"The party of the fatherland and the army," which includes most of the members of the Petrograd garrison, has adopted a resolution strongly supporting the war. "We urge the continuance of the war to a victorious conclusion," reads the resolution, "namely, a peace restoring the ancient frontiers of Russia and free Poland, including the German and Russian territory."

Sweden Seizes Rice, Maize. Stockholm, April 12.—Maize and rice stocks have been expropriated by the government.

PLAN GREAT WAR COUNCIL

AT WASHINGTON WITHIN FEW WEEKS IS ANNOUNCED BY STATE DEPARTMENT.

A British Commission Headed By Arthur J. Balfour, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Will Arrive Shortly to Discuss Affairs.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—Assembly in Washington within a few weeks of a great international war council was foreshadowed by an announcement from the State Department that a British commission, headed by Arthur J. Balfour, Minister of Foreign Affairs, is expected to arrive within ten days to discuss with the Government here questions connected with the conduct of the war. In addition to the Foreign Minister, the commission will include Admiral De Chair, of the British navy; General Bridges, of the army, and the Governor of the Bank of England, attended by a numerous staff. This was as far as the announcement made by the State Department goes, but it was learned authoritatively that a French commission, composed of officials and officers equally as distinguished as the British representatives, also will be in Washington about the same time. This commission will be headed by M. Viviani, at present Minister of Justice in the French Cabinet and formerly Premier.

It is not known definitely whether any of the other allied powers will send commissioners to Washington, but it is assumed that owing to the difficulties in passage and the probable delay the interests of these governments will be confided to their resident Ambassadors.

Beyond the statement that the object of the commission is to discuss generally questions of policy connected with the war no information was given at the State Department. It was made clear, however, that in no way will the United States Government depart from the traditional policy of avoiding anything in the nature of political alliance, though, of course, that does not exclude full and intimate military and naval co-operation in the prosecution of the war.

While it is by no means certain that there will be a joint meeting of the visiting commissions, if the State Department should desire to avoid the appearance of an alliance, there is certain to be concert of action in some way.

The conference is stated to have been sought by the allied leaders themselves in order to discuss every phase of the war. No attempt will be made to go into details or technical considerations, as the general policies involved are too stupendous to permit of it.

WORST EXPLOSION IN HISTORY OF STATE

Employee Blamed for Blast That Killed 116 Persons in Munition Plant.

Chester, Pa.—A statement by a high official of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation placed the blame of the disastrous explosion, the worst in the history of the state, on a disloyal employee who is thought to have sacrificed his life with the 116 known dead, most of whom were girls and young women. This amazing development spurred on the investigations of the catastrophe already under way by federal, state, county and local officials and officers of the company. Numerous suspects were rounded up here in Philadelphia and Villa Nova, Pa., and in Camden, N. J., and in each case the disposition of the prisoners was placed in the hands of agents of the Department of Justice at Philadelphia. The arrests so far, however, apparently have furnished no tangible clue to the perpetrator of the alleged plot, if any such was the case.

U-Boats Sank Nineteen Vessels.

London.—During the week ended April 8, 17 British merchant vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk. Two vessels of less than 1,600 tons were sent down. This was officially announced. The statement follows: "Merchant vessels over 100 tons of all nationalities, arriving and sailing from United Kingdom ports: Arrivals, 2,406; sailings, 2,367; British merchant ships sunk by mines or submarines over 1,600 tons, 17, including 2 sunk during the previous fortnight; British merchant vessels under 1,600 tons, 2, including 1 sunk last week; British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked, 14, including 4 during the previous fortnight; British fishing vessels sunk, 6, including 1 sunk during the previous week."

IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY



(Copyright.)

AGREE ON LOAN OF \$7,000,000,000

President Wins His First Fight to Get Congress Up for War Legislation.

\$5,000,000,000 BOND ISSUE

Body Also Favors \$2,000,000,000 Additional in Certificates of Indebtedness—Bill Ready for Congress.

Washington, April 12.—The senate passed the \$7,000,000,000 armory appropriation bill without a dissent.

Washington, April 12.—The administration won its first victory in its battle to line congress up for its way of conducting the war with Germany. Following a somewhat lengthy session of the ways and means committee of the house, that body unanimously agreed to favorably report the bond and certificate issue bill carrying with it an issue of \$7,000,000,000. The republican opposition, which manifested itself in a demand for additional facts regarding the necessity of such an enormous credit faded away and the committee report was unanimous. Representative Rainey announced that the measure would be taken up and undoubtedly passed on Friday.

President Is Unhindered.

The bill as reported provided for an issue of \$5,000,000,000 in bonds and \$2,000,000,000 in certificates of indebtedness, the latter to be redeemed within one year. Both bonds and certificates bear 3½ per cent interest. Bonds heretofore authorized but not sold for the acquisition of the Danish West Indies, the construction of the armor plate and nitrate plants; the Panama canal, the speeding up of the naval construction, the Alaskan railway and the Mexican mobilization, at an interest of 3 per cent, can be converted into 3½ per cent bonds. Under the terms of the bill the president and the secretary of the treasury are absolutely unhindered in making a loan of \$3,000,000,000 to the entente allies as the securities which are to be purchased are not stipulated. The president is only directed to acquire "the obligations of foreign governments" in an amount not to exceed three billion dollars.

The bill also authorized an additional bond issue not to exceed \$83,945,460 to redeem the 3 per cent loan of 1908 to 1915, maturing August 1, 1916. The remaining bonds specified in Section 4 of the bill are already authorized by law.

"Your committee," said the report, "deemed it advisable to authorize the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue at this time in order to enable our government to extend liberal credits and in order to provide immediately ample funds to meet such expenditures as are authorized for the national security and defense."

Terms Are Explained.

After stipulating that the interest rate on the bonds shall not exceed 3½ per cent, the report explains that terms and denominations of the bonds are left in the discretion of the secretary of the treasury. If in subsequent issues it is necessary to increase the interest rate, the bonds of the present series are convertible into bonds bearing the higher rate.

"The secretary of the treasury," continues the report, "at the present time has authority to issue \$472,000,000 worth of bonds, \$222,000,000 worth are still available to be issued under the Panama canal bond provision of

U. S. FLAG IN BIG BATTLE

Young Texan Carries Stars and Stripes in Assault on Vimy Ridge.

Ottawa, Ont., April 12.—The Stars and Stripes went into battle for the first time during the world war in the recent entente storming of Vimy ridge in France, according to an unofficial dispatch received here from Canadian army headquarters in Europe.

"To a young Texan, who came to Ontario to enlist and who is lying wounded in the hospital," the dispatch reads, "belongs the honor of first carrying the American flag into battle in European war, into which the United States, as a belligerent, has just entered. He went up to the assault at Vimy carrying the Stars and Stripes on his bayonet and fell thus."

RIOTS IN GERMANY

Food Riots in Uniform Join Food Outburst—Mob Is Fired On—Many Women Injured.

The Hague, April 12.—Soldiers in uniform are reported to have joined the food riots in Germany. Unrest over starvation rations has increased to an alarming extent, according to news from the frontier today.

It was reported that food riots in Dusseldorf were so serious on Easter Sunday that troops fired on mobs in the street. Scores of arrests have been made.

Women are taking a leading part in the agitation and many have been hurt in clashes with the police.

SPANISH STEAMER IS SUNK

San Fulgencia Sent Down Without Warning, According to Stories Told by Her Crew.

Paris, April 12.—The Spanish steamer San Fulgencia was sunk without warning, according to stories told by her crew. They were safely landed at Nantes.

The Fulgencia was a steel screw steamer of 1,558 tons, owned by the Cartagena Navigation company, and registered at Cartagena, Spain.

The revenue act of August 5, 1900. The revenue act of March 3, 1917, authorizes the issue of \$100,000,000 worth, and the public resolution of March 4, 1917, authorizes the issue of Panama canal bonds for the construction of the nitrate plant. The shipping act likewise authorizes the issue of Panama canal bonds for the purposes of that act.

It authorizes the purchase with the proceeds from the sale of these bonds, by the secretary of the treasury, with the approval of the president, of the obligations of foreign governments bearing the same rate of interest and containing essentially the same terms and conditions as the bonds issued under authority of this act.

The issuance of \$2,000,000,000 in certificates of indebtedness is recommended to the end that a proper balance may always be maintained in the treasury. These certificates are payable in one year and will be redeemed out of the revenue to be raised by the forthcoming tax bill.

The report says in conclusion:

"The total interest-bearing debt outstanding February 26, 1917, amounted to \$973,000,000. Under existing law \$427,000,000 worth of bonds are available to be issued. This bill authorizes, in addition to the bonds already available to be issued under existing law and exclusive of \$3,000,000,000 bond issue to extend credit to foreign governments which takes care of itself, the issue of \$2,000,000,000 worth of bonds. Should this amount of bonds be issued the total interest-bearing indebtedness exclusive of the \$3,000,000,000 credit to foreign governments will amount to \$3,445,000,000."

ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL LINE UP WITH THE U. S.

Two of the Three "A. B. C." Nations Agree With Washington Government.

BIG REPUBLICS WITH AMERICA

Believed That It Is Only Matter of Time Until State of War Develops—Other South American Nations to Follow Lead.

Montevideo, Uruguay, April 12.—The Uruguayan government today issued a decree of neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany and between Cuba and Germany.

An Unnamed American Port, April 12.—A French cruiser and a British cruiser have arrived here. Both ships were welcomed with salutes and answered. They are the first entente warships to enter this port since the war began.

Buenos Aires, April 12.—The government issued a declaration announcing that it supported the position of the United States in reference to Germany.

The declaration was made known to the public through bulletins posted throughout the city and caused a great sensation. Enthusiastic crowds marched through the streets and the university students organized pro-ally demonstrations.

Some of the newspapers say that high officers of the army assert that the military mobilization of Argentina will follow that of Brazil.

Brazil Orders Break.

Rio Janeiro, April 12.—At a cabinet council it was decided that Brazil sever her relations with Germany.

Three Republics With U. S.

Washington, April 12.—Much of the uncertainty as to Latin America's attitude in the war between the United States and Germany was cleared away by definite advices that Chile and Mexico will remain neutral and increasing indications that Brazil, Guatemala and Peru will join Cuba and Panama on the side of the United States. Brazil already has broken off relations with the kaiser's government, and it is believed here it is only a matter of time until a state of war develops.

The decision of Chile, the first of the American republics to announce her neutrality, caused some surprise among officials here.

Mexico's decision, on the other hand, caused no surprise and is regarded as certain to have little influence with her sister republics.

Information as to Carranza's decision reached the state department informally, and a proclamation of neutrality is expected after the Mexican congress meets April 15.

Brazil's Influence Large.

As the largest South American nation, Brazil's influence on the other republics of the new world is expected to be second only to that of the United States.

Official advices from Guatemala during the day left little doubt that the proclamation of martial law there was a preliminary to a break with Germany. Under suspension of the civil law the Guatemalan government can take drastic steps in controlling what might otherwise be a serious situation presented by the large German population.

BLAME PLOT FOR DISASTER

Alba B. Johnson and Samuel Vanclain Say Eddystone, Pa., Explosion Not Accident.

Chester, Pa., April 12.—President Alba B. Johnson of the Baldwin Locomotive works, changed his theory that the Eddystone explosion was due to an accident after a visit to the plant. He now agrees with the view of Samuel M. Vanclain, president of the Eddystone Ammunition corporation, that plotters caused the explosion.

"Although we have only circumstantial evidence," Mr. Johnson said, "it looks as if someone touched off a bomb or a time clock with an explosive attached. I have become convinced after a talk with the Eddystone officials, that the catastrophe could not have occurred through an accident."

Knoxville.—Col. J. W. Campbell, commander of the Henry M. Ashby Camp of United Confederate Veterans, has offered their services to the president in case of war to serve in any capacity that the president may see fit to use them. Col. Campbell is 69 years of age, but says he is ready to help defend the flag.

MRS. DUNCAN U. FLETCHER



Mrs. Duncan U. Fletcher, wife of Senator Fletcher of Florida, is one of the five candidates for the presidency of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

SAYS KAISER DOOMED

Germany Has Been Expelled From All Continents.

Swiss Paper Declares If Teuton Navy Were Free It Would Have No Port of Call.

Geneva, April 12.—The Journal de Geneve, in an editorial says:

"The essential factor is in the progressive expulsion of Germany from all continents today. Even if the British fleet did not exist the Germans would not have a port of call outside Europe, except in Siam. For an overpopulated and overproductive country, which lives by exportations and which would die if forced to fall back on itself, the loss of South America, coming after that of China, is a genuine catastrophe."

"It has often been said, 'in war victory alone counts,' but it is no longer true. The future counts more. Germany is victorious in Europe but shut out of the rest of the world. It is a brilliant speck on a hostile map. A hundred million men against the whole universe is death and hardly a slow one. Such is the result today of the submarine war, wanted by Germans who talked much of impossibilities and have neglected the heaviest of all."

Rome, April 12.—Premier Boselli, speaking at the inauguration of an exhibition of photographs from all fronts which has been organized in the Capitoline museum, said, in reference to America's entrance into the war:

"Six hundred years ago Cola di Rienzi proclaimed from this capitol the rights of peoples. Today, from another capitol, that of Washington, President Wilson has proclaimed the same rights, inviting the peoples to bind themselves with a pledge of love, embracing all civilized races."

The premier emphasized the importance of American intervention both from a moral and material standpoint. Every reference to the United States was greeted with loud cheers.

ARTILLERY FIGHTING ACTIVE

French Take Prisoners on West Front—Break Up German Attack South of Oise.

Paris, April 12.—"Active artillery fighting continues over the front between the Somme and the Oise," says the official communication. "Patrol encounters occurred at various points, in which we took prisoners. South of the Oise a German attack on one of our posts east of Concy was broken up by our fire. Near Maisons de Champagne there was severe grenade fighting during the night."

U-Boats in the Pacific.

San Francisco.—Warning that German submarines are believed to be operating in the Pacific were sent to all steamship captains at sea by wireless, by order of Lieutenant Commander E. C. Woods, of the Twelfth Naval District here. The warning said: "Information has this day been received that German submarines are operating in the Pacific. Please notify all ships under your control and ask that they spread the warning broadcast." Commander Woods would not say what parts of the Pacific.